



2002-01-23

Tribute to Commander Michael Lipski, U. S. Navy

United States Government Printing Office 732 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC 20401-0044

Vol. 148 Congressional Record -- Senate ; S18

<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/24539>



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proven operational experience and insightful knowledge on a number of Department of Defense issues, including defense health care, operational bed-down of C-17 and C-130J aircraft, various weapons systems, military construction, and university research programs. Specifically, Jeff was instrumental in helping the Air Force craft a C-130J Roadmap for future bed-down of operational assets that took into account Congressional concerns. He helped me articulate a successful case for adding funding for additional maintenance training simulators and military construction projects that will help ensure the successful bed-down in Jackson, MS of the first ever C-17 aircraft assigned to the National Guard. He helped craft new legislation that will ensure the financial viability of our Armed Forces Retirement Homes and the quality of life for the residents well into the 21st century. He also provided extremely valuable inputs in helping to craft legislation that established the future site of the Air Force Memorial while preserving as much acreage as possible for the Arlington National Cemetery. Major Prichard's coordination with the staffs of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee led to over \$28 million in additional military construction funding for Mississippi's military bases and yielded over \$100 million in research, development, test, and evaluation funds for universities in Mississippi.

Major Prichard is married to the former Wendy Lynn Hurlbert of Minneapolis, MN. They have three children, 10-year-old daughter Sydney, 8-year-old son Jeffrey Jr., and 5-year-old daughter Hailey. Among Major Prichard's many awards and decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and Air Force Achievement Medal.

Major Prichard will return to the Air Force at Langley AFB, Virginia, where he will once again control the skies in the F-15C. I have appreciated greatly Major Jeff Prichard's contributions to my team and I will miss him. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I wish Major Prichard and his family "Good Hunting and Godspeed."

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER MICHAEL LIPSKI, U.S. NAVY

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding Naval Officer, Commander Michael Lipski, upon his departure from my staff. Commander Lipski was selected to work as a Navy Fellow in my office during the First Session of the 107th Congress due to his outstanding professional reputation and superior knowledge of Defense programs, industry, and the military construction requirements process. It is a privilege for me to recognize a fellow Mississippian for

the devotion to duty, exceptional performance, and outstanding professionalism he has provided to the United States Senate, the Department of Defense, and our great Nation.

Commander Lipski entered the University of Mississippi in 1979 and was commissioned as an Ensign upon graduation in 1984. After his completion of the Navy's Surface Warfare Officer School in 1985, he served as Auxiliaries Officer and Main Propulsion Assistant on USS *Oliver Hazard Perry*, FFG-7, where he earned his qualification as a Surface Warfare Officer. In 1988, Commander Lipski became an Assistant Professor of Naval Science at Florida A&M University where he instructed Midshipmen in ship systems engineering, weapon systems theory, shipboard operations and navigation. While at Florida A&M, he also earned his Craftmaster qualification and served as the Officer-in-Charge of the Naval Sail Training Vessel *Dolphin*, NSY-29. In December 1989, Commander Lipski was designated a Civil Engineer Corps Officer and served on the staff of the Officer-in-Charge of Construction, Mariana Islands as an Assistant Resident Officer-in-Charge of Construction. After leaving Guam in 1992, he was assigned to Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station, Cutler, ME, as the Public Works Officer and Officer-in-Charge of Naval Facilities and Engineering Command Contracts. After a follow-on assignment to the Naval Postgraduate School, where he earned a Masters degree in Financial Management, Commander Lipski served as the Public Works Officer at the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, MS. While in Gulfport, he superbly managed over \$60 million in military construction projects. He also wrote a Master Plan for Seabee Base Gulfport that led to over \$100 million in quality of life and mission support military construction projects that have greatly improved the operational capability and morale of the Seabees and their families stationed in Gulfport. Prior to joining my staff in January 2001, Commander Lipski served with distinction for two years on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations ensuring that our sailors and their families had top-notch bachelor quarters and family housing to live in.

Commander Lipski quickly became a valued member of my staff where he led several legislative initiatives that enormously benefitted the Department of Defense, the Navy, and the State of Mississippi. He worked hard to ensure that the Defense authorization and appropriations bills for fiscal year 2002 included legislative provisions and specific programs aimed at modernizing and recapitalizing our military and improving the quality of life of our service members and their families. Specifically, he did a great deal of research and analysis that led to a complete rewrite of the statutes governing the management and oversight of the Armed Forces Retirement Homes. This

new legislation will ensure the financial viability of our Armed Forces Retirement Homes and quality care for the residents well into the 21st century. Commander Lipski also articulated a successful case for adding \$28 million in military construction projects for Mississippi's military bases. Commander Lipski's strong leadership, hard work, and vision led to congressional actions that will ensure our military is properly equipped and trained to meet head-on the challenges it will face in the future.

Commander Lipski is married to the former Jill Daria Wiltzius of Spooner, WI. He is the son of John and Eleanor Lipski of Long Beach, MS. Mike is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Mississippi, a member of the Navy Acquisition Professional Community, and a member of the Society of American Military Engineers. His many awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal and numerous other service awards.

Throughout his career, Commander Lipski has served the United States Navy and our Nation with excellence and distinction. He will be sorely missed on Capitol Hill but his return to the Naval Service will benefit Naval Air Station Jacksonville, the Navy's commands in the southeastern United States, and our great Nation. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I wish Mike and Jill "fair winds and following seas."

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today I rise to pay tribute to a great man, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King was born on January 15, 1929. As a nation, we have celebrated his life and accomplishments every third Monday in January since 1986. However, in my home State of Illinois, we have been celebrating this great man for almost 30 years, since 1973.

Late in 1955, Montgomery, AL, civil rights activist Rosa Parks refused to obey the city's rules mandating segregation on buses. Five days later, Dr. King was elected by his supporters to be president of the Montgomery Improvement Association. As president, he participated in the bus boycott that eventually led to the Supreme Court declaring Montgomery's segregation laws unconstitutional. As Dr. King gained national prominence he was repeatedly attacked for his beliefs and because of the color of his skin. Sadly, violent acts against Americans of different beliefs, ethnic groups, and hues continue to plague our nation today.

Building on the success of the Montgomery boycott movement, Dr. King and other southern African-American ministers founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. With his colleagues, Dr. King promoted the goal of voting rights when he spoke at the Lincoln Memorial during the 1957 Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom.